

9 June 1986

TALKING POINTS FOR THE ADDI

ANGOLA

Government Offensive Pending

The ongoing build-up of Angolan forces and recent outbreak of fighting between government and UNITA forces in central Angola suggest that Luanda's dry season offensive will get underway later this month or early July. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

UNITA forces are contesting the advance of three government brigades advancing on Munhango in central Angola. [REDACTED]

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Nevertheless, the insurgents reportedly are putting up an aggressive defense of the town -- UNITA leader Savimbi's birthplace -- which lies astride a key supply line to UNITA forces in the north and is on a potential government supply route to its forces in the east. [REDACTED]

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- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] government troops are reported to be in position near Lucusse and Cuito Cuanavale, jumping-off points for attacking the southeast. UNITA is reported to have clashed already with elements of these forces. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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South Africa apparently remains prepared to help UNITA with direct military support if necessary. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted] South African commando raid against the Angolan seaport at Namibe probably was intended to hinder further military deliveries and to demonstrate Pretoria's willingness to intervene. [redacted]

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Angolan Air and Air Defense Developments

The Angolan air force has grown substantially in the past few years. Large Soviet aircraft deliveries and increased training of Angolan pilots is producing a more effective air arm for Luanda [redacted]

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Raid on Namibe

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the attack on the Angolan port of Namibe last Thursday sank a Cuban freighter and damaged two Soviet arms carriers.

- South Africa probably attacked the vessels with commandos and mines--rather than by missile boat as claimed by the press--in order to disrupt military deliveries to southern Angola prior to the expected government offensive against UNITA. A similar commando attack in 1984 in Luanda sank an East German ship. A missile attack on the facility, as Luanda claimed, would be both risky and unprecedented.

- Commandos probably also sabotaged the petroleum storage depot

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Moscow and Havana have blamed Pretoria for the attack and probably will keep up the publicity and diplomatic pressure, but a military response is unlikely.

- A Soviet missile destroyer and a salvage ship have arrived at Namibe.
- The Soviets maintain a small flotilla in Angolan waters, and probably will keep one or more warships at Namibe for at least the next week as a reminder to South Africa of their naval capabilities.
- Moscow may also push Luanda more aggressively in its campaign against UNITA.

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